

new Bernal Journal

June/July '95

Serving the Bernal Heights Neighborhood of San Francisco

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Race for peace



A rainbow of children lined the Bernal Heights float entitled "Race for Peace" which featured fanciful soap box cars created and built by youth at the Will Power Motors art studio.

Photo by Vicki Victoria

Bernal Heights shines at Carnaval

By Joy Ferguson

Just as Carnaval pulls together the diversity and excitement of San Francisco, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) float contingent highlighted some of Bernal's wonders. Being in the parade's starting position number twelve was a high point for the Race for Peace group of 50 youth and 50 adults.

The contingent started out with Christine Pyston leading the BHNC banner, followed by the Alemany Girl's Drill Team who showed their moves in formation. Next was "Senior Power" reigning with the senior queen and king of Bernal, Bebe Castaing and Rufino Balajadia, and Prince Victor Tulier.

The colorful float was propelled forward by the live salsa sounds of the wonderful Los Compas with a truck steadily pulling the creation. The float itself was a 30 foot marvel featuring nine soap box cars headed down a race track ramp. Youngsters rode in ten other hand-

Cont'd on page 2...



11 year old Michael Sparks plays in Precita Park with his friend, Mike Peña, near the sight where Michael foiled a kidnapping attempt two weeks earlier.

Photo by Gareth Barkin

Hero of Precita Park

by Gareth Barkin

Michael Sparks' many friends and schoolmates don't seem to be treating him differently than anyone else. But each one of them knows the story that has made this Bernal Dwellings resident a local hero.

After school on Friday, the 19th of May, a five year old girl was waiting for her brother to pick her up at Precita Park. But as she bent down to tie her shoe, a strange man approached and attempted to help her. When she told him that she didn't need any help, he began try-

Cont'd on page 8...

Zwigoff

And the Art of Crumb

A New Bernal Journal Interview
by Gareth Barkin

Terry Zwigoff, director of the award-winning *Crumb*, talks about film, fame, and the elusive R. Crumb himself.

Open a national magazine, pick up a local weekly, or sit down with the Sunday paper, and chances are you'll see the name "Crumb" written all over it. It can not be avoided: This country has gone Crumb crazy. It's rare enough for an independent, documentary film to be paid such attention. But a documentary about R. Crumb, a cult cartoonist of rather selective popularity, and his peculiar family? It stands out from the other summer blockbusters.

Terry Zwigoff, director of the film, and long-time Bernal Heights resident, spent six years filming his friend Robert Crumb in the hopes of creating a portrait of an artistic process, and the case study of an artist. He thought it would make a great film. No one else seemed to agree. Yet the opening of this film has brought overwhelming acclaim from a nation of critics, and it is now sweeping the country with astonishing momentum. It arrived at the Castro theater on May 26th. I spoke to Zwigoff about the startling success of his film, and what happened along the way:

• How long have you lived in Bernal Heights?

Since 1974. I moved to San Francisco in 1970 and lived on Potrero Hill for a couple years but since then I've lived on this hill.

• What do you think of the changes happening in Bernal Heights?

I don't get over [to Cortland Ave.] very much, but this immediate area where I am has been really nice. I remember the first day I moved here there was a gun fight between these two rival gangs outside, and I thought, "Oh boy — made a big mistake moving in here!" But it's pretty nice now...people fixing up their homes.

• The gentrification doesn't bother you?

It's got its pros and cons, certainly. Certainly the politics of it can get pretty sticky, you know. But, in general it's been a much easier place to live than it was when I first moved in here, it was a pretty tough neighborhood then.

• Let's talk about the *Crumb* film — what has your relationship with the *Crumb* family been over the years, and did they live in this area as well?

Robert lived in Winters, 80 miles north near Sacramento. I met him shortly after I moved to San Francisco. His mother and brothers lived in Philadelphia. I only happened to stay at their house one night, but it left a very lasting impression on me. I found myself telling stories about this night to other friends of mine, and thought this is such an incredible story, such incredible characters, it would make a great film. I thought it would be a very successful commercial film as well, but the problem was nobody else believed me. It took about nine years to raise the money to make it. It was actually the top grossing film in America last weekend, per screen average. It's making a lot of money in New York and Los Angeles, and it opens here at the Castro on May 26th, and I guess the same night at the U.C. in Berkeley.

• It was quite a mob scene at the SF film festival when it premiered. People who I approached for money early on in this film always said that the film wasn't commercial because the only people who are going

Cont'd. on page 8...



Photo by Alex Neumann

Long-time Bernal Heights resident Terry Zwigoff has found astounding critical acclaim from his new film "Crumb."

People on the Hill



Miley & Sheila Holman with daughters Abigail & Rachel at home on Folsom Street.

At Home with the Holmans

By Dorothy Coakley

Folsom Street is slippery with mud from a recent rain as I climb the hill towards its summit. It's a neighborhood with a sense of history. The fire-warped bricks of an earlier era frame one house. Like similar houses in Pacific Heights, these bricks may have been salvaged from the 1906 earthquake. Perhaps shaky survivors reconstructed their house on the safest slope they could find: Bernal Heights.

Too late! My shoes are covered with mud and I am due two blocks up at the Holman's home for an interview with Miley and Sheila. My shoes will just have to be left at the door

Cont'd. on page 7...

Neighborhood Shopping Guide & Classifieds: Pages 10 & 11

new Bernal Journal

515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110 • (415) 208-2144

The *New Bernal Journal* is a bi-monthly neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with community news, ideas, issues, and events that support the Center's mission: "To empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights." The *New Bernal Journal* is distributed door to door, free in Bernal Heights. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

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Carnaval - from page 1...

made soap box derby cars while parents, neighbors, and young people all helped to pull the cars along the parade route.

Bringing up the rear of our group was last, but not least, the Bernal Walking Band. The band was formed for this event by musicians of all instruments and ages. It was quite a party, with participants wearing fanciful parade hats. The hats were made at a workshop at the Bernal Gym and at the BHNC while the float was being painted out front on Cortland Street the day before the parade.

The work that went into this neighborhood festivity started way back in September while planning the soap box car classes and in February when the youth began

Top: Christine Pyston, in her the shimmering golden gown that she made especially for Carnaval, proudly leads the Bernal Heights entry down 24th and Mission Streets. Bottom: Senior King Rufino Balajadia and Queen Bebe Castaing reigned with Senior Power at the Parade.



building. Since then, youth aged 10 - 12 years have been making soap box cars through a collaborative project with the studio of Gregory Gavin, Will Power Motors,

BHNC, the Bay Area Discovery Museum, the California Arts Council; and the LEF Foundation. The youth designed their own cars, built

Continued on next page...

A Note from the Editor

Welcome Aboard!

The *New Bernal Journal* welcomes our new Assistant Editor, Gareth Barkin. Gareth's interests and skills in creative writing, accounting and computer graphics made him the perfect choice for this position that requires wearing many hats.

Gareth has worked as the Neighborhood Center's Accounting Assistant for the past year. A Psychology major from U.C. Santa Cruz, (No, nepotism was not involved, even though your current editor is also a UCSC Slug Alumni) he looks forward to entering graduate school in the fall.

After working for four years as the NBJ's Editor, I have decided that working two jobs (I'm also the Senior Services Director at the Neighborhood Center) makes it impossible to start a family. Therefore, I'll be slowly handing over the baton to Gareth, who will become Editor early next year.

We look forward to working together to bring you one of the best neighborhood newspapers in town.

- Vicki Victoria



Gareth Barkin

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axles and a base, then built the car concept whether it be a race car, a shark, or an airplane.

A great neighborhood effort also poured into this float through financial support, volunteer work, supplies, participation, and good will for neighborhood pride. Big thanks to: Bernal Heights Carnaval Coordinator extraordinaire, Novella Smith and her family, Ron Morgan, Heidi Rahlman, Rich Abrahamsen, Bambi Menes, James E. Robert's - Obayashi Corporation, especially Larry Smith and Bob Loder, Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA); the Cortland Merchant's Association, Michael Baker, Arch, JK Sound, Artistic Impressions - Nicolas & Maya Vasquez, Safeway, Nicco's Cafe, Kelly Moore Paints; Smart & Final, Heartfelt, Bernal Books, Cole Hardware, Goodlife Grocery, JC Super Market, Liberty Cafe, Wendy Miller, David Rogers, Tirralyn Carter, Johnny Main, Mark Reed, Mission Neighborhood Centers, and all of the youth, families, and neighbors who laughed, walked, pulled, and performed with us on Sunday. And... if you would like to participate next year, mark your calendar for early May to call BHNC at 206-2140. We'd love you to join us for the fun of Carnaval '96.

Top: Mike, Nic, Gila and Kenny were part of the Bernal Walking Band that brought up the rear with whimsical tunes in the tradition of the ol' Dixie marching band.

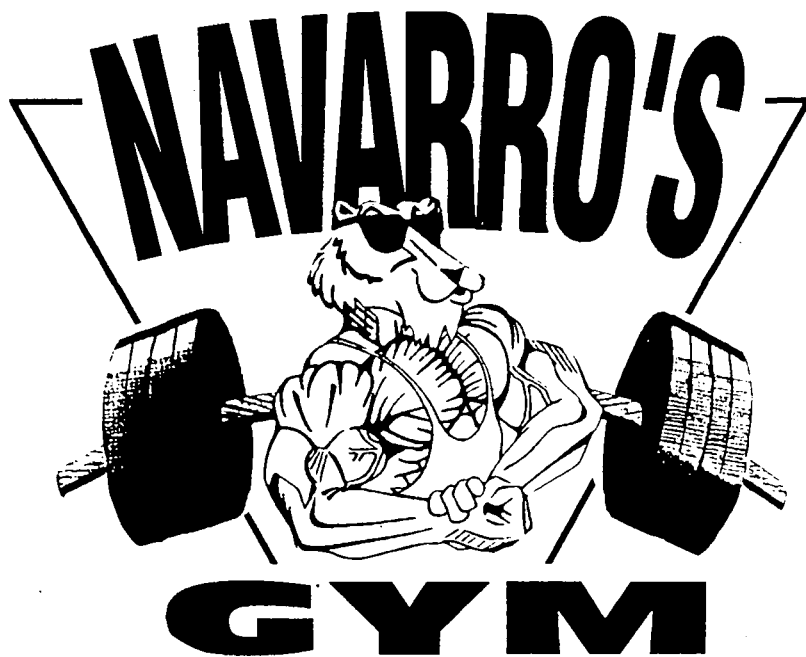
Bottom: Reed Morgan rides through Carnaval in her custom made go cart.



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The Farm at Alemany: Strengthening & revitalizing nature

Once neglected area of Bernal Heights is blossoming into the Bay Area's most unique urban restoration and mini-farm

The Alemany Housing Development's Urban Mini-Farm, Orchard, and Habitat Restoration Project will be one of the most unique features in San Francisco, if not the entire urban Bay Area. The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) and Neighborhood Green Corps (NGC) Americorps have created a part-

nership to prepare and plan this unique farm and restoration project.

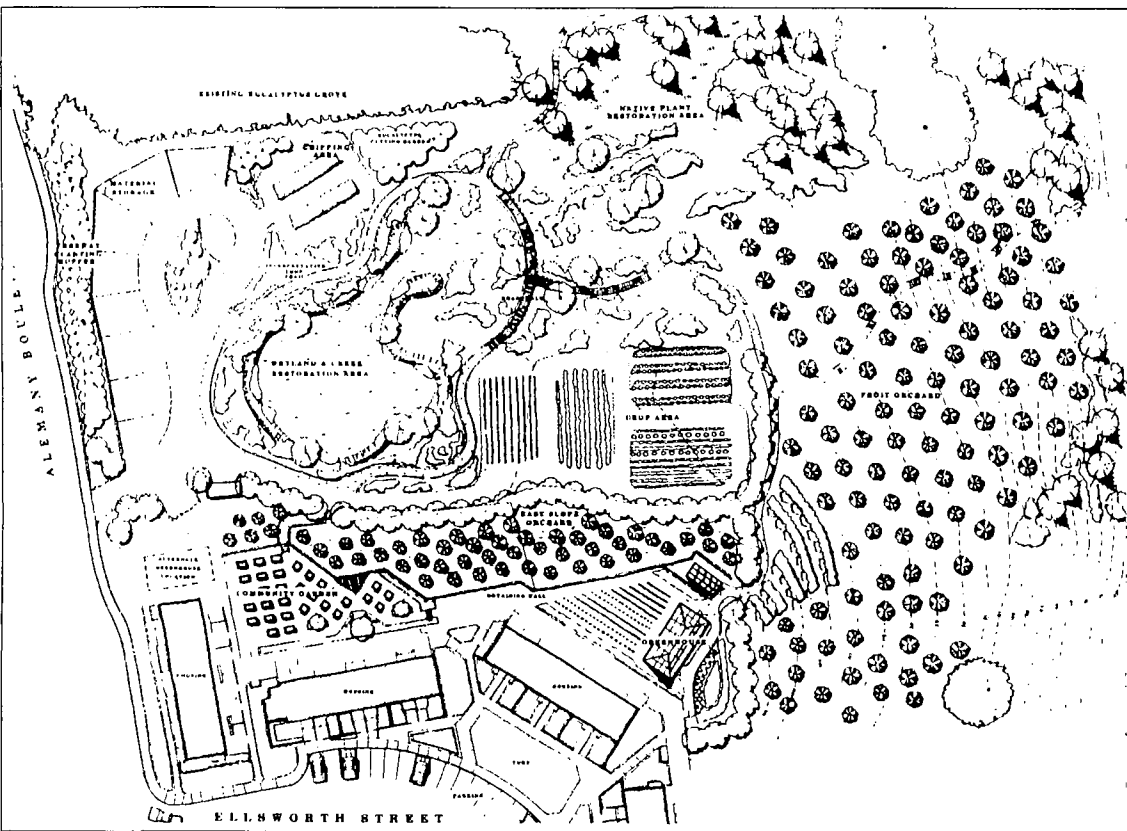
The crop area and edible landscaping will be integrated with the restored creek, wetland, and drought-tolerant areas of this four acre site that is nestled in a terraced hillside overlooking Alemany Housing Development.

A community and market garden has already been constructed and is in use by 31 households of the Alemany Housing Project.

Recycled materials, solar panels and a windmill for the generation of electricity, an interpretive walkway and greenhouse are a sampling of the many community-designed features of this project.



Bernal Heights and Alemany Housing Development residents joined forces on May 7 to clean lower St. Mary's Garden. The clean up will make way for the Natural Habitat Restoration of native plants and a wetland/creek. The creek, running downhill, creating a natural wetland marsh and habitat for ducks, alligator lizards and salamanders, will be restored.



In preparation for the SLUG's Summer Youth Internship Program, residents joined forces on May 7th and cleaned up lower St. Mary's Garden. This volunteer effort filled a 16 foot dumpster with debris ranging from a discarded motorcycle to bags of illegally dumped household trash. SLUG's program will provide training and education to 45 teens through funding by the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Families.

All Bernal neighbors are invited to help ensure the success of this unique project by helping to clear non-native vegetation on Habitat

Restoration Day on Saturday, June 3. All volunteers will receive a free box lunch from the Hard Rock Cafe and can also take part in a free composting workshop at 1:00 pm.

To celebrate the kick-off day of SLUG's Summer Youth Internship Program, the community is also invited to "Festival at the Farm" on Saturday, July 8, which features music, BBQ, gardening information and informative speakers.

For future workdays or more information, call SLUG at 285-SLUG.

Conceptual plans for Lower St. Mary's Garden, directly west of the Alemany Housing Development. This unique mini-farm will include an urban orchard featuring apples, avocados, peaches and walnuts and a greenhouse for starting seedling. The project restores the area to its original natural state through a habitat restoration and will plant trees in the very steep west slope to provide erosion control. The Crop Production Area will produce fields of collards, alliums, potatoes and buckwheat. The Materials Resource Center will offer compost, mulch, wood chips and recycled lumber. Border plantings of native and drought tolerant plants and flowers will grace the entryway to the site for an added sense of beauty and peace.

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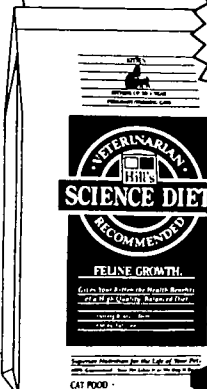
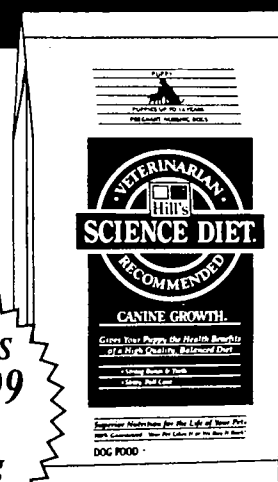


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Exploring Bernal's Stairways

Adah Bakalinsky's new book, *Stairway Walks in San Francisco*, is filled with veritable treasure hunts, leading the intrepid explorer up and down stairways and along city streets, pointing out the architectural jewels, the historical gems and the cultural pearls which make up the city.

Bernal Heights West

By Adah Bakalinsky

• (1) We begin on **Coso Avenue and Coleridge**. Several Queen Anne rowhouses on the east side are newly painted. The Stick style at No. 130 Coso, which also bears the address of No. 1 Lundys Lane, has a corner rectangular bay window. Behind it, at No. 9 Lundys Lane, is an Italianate flat-front, positioned strangely—its side faces the street.

• (2) We walk up the **Coso sidewalk stairway** on the left-hand side of the street; veer to the (3) left on **Aztec** and (4) descend the stairway to **Shotwell**. Nos. 1429 and 1435 Shotwell were bonus plan cottages. These were available to 1906 earthquake victims who lost their homes, but still retained their jobs.

• (5) Turn right on **Stoneman**, cross the street, and we're at the foot of Bernal Hill, one of the City's 42 hills. The 23 acres of hilltop are under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Department. The hill has been designated "a natural area in perpetuity." It is to be restored with plants indigenous to the area. The Native Plant Society and the Bernal Heights Open Space Committee have been diligent in holding work parties to collect seed from the hill, and to plant bunch grass in test plots.

• (6) We follow a **dirt path** up the hill (to minimize erosion, stairs will probably be placed here). The hill, which is blocked off from vehicular traffic, is a pleasant place for walking, jogging and bicycling. When we arrive at the top we have a choice of directions. If we go to the left, we almost cover the mile-long route around the hill, in addition to seeing an exquisite panoramic view of the city.

• (7) We decide to take the more direct route and turn to our right. Shortly, we come to the **Esmeralda Stwy.**, which we descend.

• The area surrounding the stairway has been gardened and cared for by several neighborhood gardeners who love plants and trees and Bernal Heights, and do all they can to create a beautiful environment. In the center of the planting area is a stone memorial and a California live oak dedicated to Margaret Randolph, neighborhood activist who organized the first Northwest Bernal Heights Club.

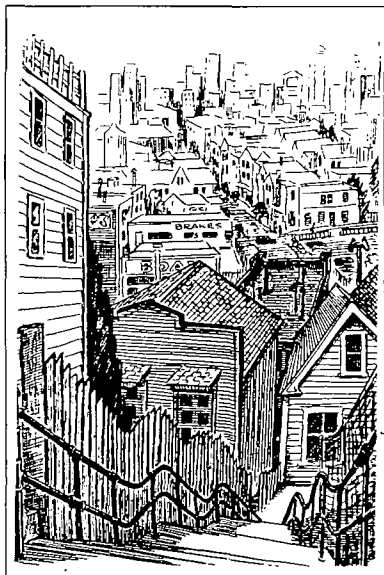
• Red-hot poker grows nearby. A kestrel flies above us as we descend (8), probably looking for grasshoppers.

• (9) Left turn on **Elsie**. The street had been graded in an unconventional manner—it still has bumps and ridges and unevenness which actually create a more vivid contour portrait of the street. New housing has been built on the odd-numbered side—Nos. 139-173, in a very pleasing contemporary style with bay windows. No. 179 is a redwood-shingled house with a lovely curved stairway to the door.

• We come to a quasi-triangular section of well-kept homes. The writing in the concrete says Virginia Ave. Continue, and (10) turn right on **Eugenia**. From Windfield we descend the very pleasant stairway to Prospect. Bollards and greenery on both sides of the stairs are a charming announcement of a special pedestrian right-of-way.

• (11) Left turn on **Prospect**. the sign says, Prospect 326 and Kingston End. Across from No. 320, we descend the curved, floating Kingston Stwy. A striking rock formation on the left-hand side and a sign at the bottom of the stairway (12) says, Kingston Gardens.

• (13) Turn right on **Coleridge**. This block has predominantly multifamily dwellings. We go right on **Eugenia** (14) and see eucalyptus, mirror plant, ivy and fuchsia cascading over the wall, and flowering fruit trees. Left run on **Prospect** (15) where we walk downhill, past Heyman to Virginia; turn right (16). No. 201 at the corner is a fish-scaled, gabled, with bowed bays. We turn left on **Winfield** (17). No. 140 has a



Shotwell Street

By Trudie Douglas

drawbridge. No. 119, a flat-front gabled, has charm and simplicity.

• (18) At **Esmeralda** turn left to descend the angled stairway to the viewing platform where we can see Twin Peaks. There are picnic tables, a sunken and trellised planting area with rosemary growing over the side, and slides in the playground. The annual Easter egg hunt take place here. The behind-the-scene-work is a year-round cooperative activity of dedicated parents who save and color empty eggshells, place toys into them, cover them with colored tissue and hide them.

• The stairway begins again at Lundys. No. 100 on the left side is appealing. We continue down the stairway—enhanced by plantings of ceonothus, sage, and daisies on both sides, to Coleridge where the architectural device of bollards herald, "A Stairway."

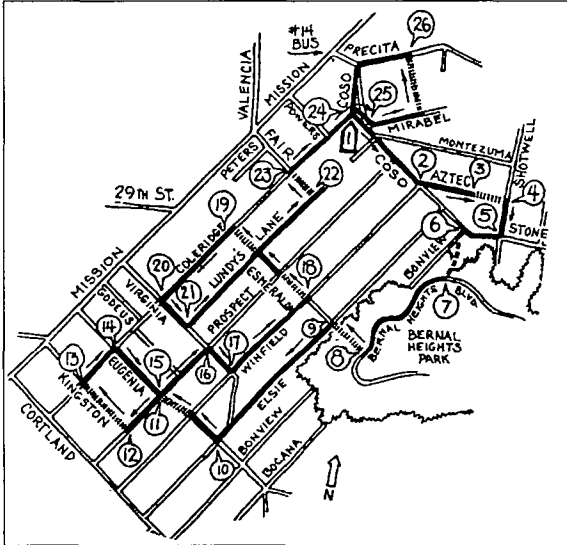
• (19) Left on **Coleridge** where we pass a mix of houses. No. 190 Coleridge is housing for senior citizens put up by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation in 1989. This pleasingly executed building houses 190 seniors. a toddlers' playground near the entrance is well-utilized. The street trees are ficus.

• (20) Left on **Virginia** to a block lined with eucalyptus trees and (21) left on **Lundys Ln**. The street carob trees, and the similar height of the homes, mostly from the 1880s and 1890s, bestow an ambience of continuity and charm. At this time we pass two empty lots, full of fennel and stork's bill; and a row of Queen Annes and flat-fronts. Walk past Esmeralda. The colors may be changed at any moment but at the present writing, No. 57, a flat-front Victorian, is multi-hued—orange, robin's-egg blue, dark blue, white. There are some very nice gardens on our left. At the cul-de-sac we are at Lundys and Fair. The house on our right, No. 17 is one of the oldest in Bernal Heights, and is on its original homestead goat farm. It has been extended from a simple, gabled, thin, clapboard to a roomy, two-story, eight-room structure. The front is No. 34 Prospect.

• Walk to the right, to the end of Lundys cul-de-sac to look across the street to No. 23 Prospect, an architect-designed house that features an outsized front window and unusual interior lights.

• (22) We return to the cul-de-sac to descend the **Fair Stwy.** down to (23) **Coleridge to Coso**, then (24) right on Coso to Mirabel. Next to No. 9, we descend one of the narrowest stairways in the City, from (25) Mirabel to **Precita**. Since No. 189, the house with the Beatles imagery, has been repainted, turn (26) left on **Precita** to Coso and Coleridge, to our beginning.

Enjoy all 27 guided neighborhood walks in "Stairway Walks in San Francisco" by Adah Bakalinsky and published by Wilderness Press, Berkeley.



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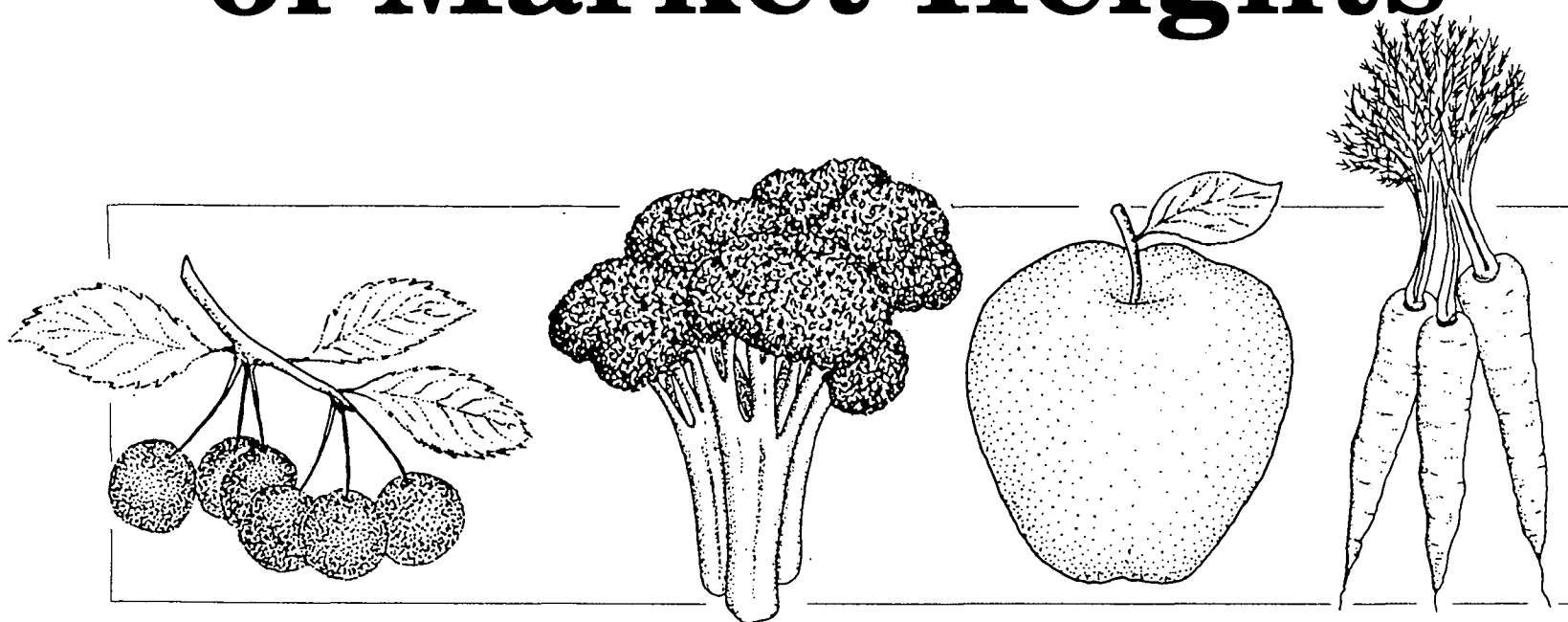


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The Farmers' Market Will Remain Open During the Construction of Market Heights



The Alemany Farmers' Market at 100 Alemany Boulevard off Highway 280, will remain open and undisturbed during the construction of Market Heights, an affordable family housing development on the hillsides behind the market. We appreciate your cooperation and continued patronage as we build needed housing for working families.

For years, neighbors have enjoyed this selling stalls full of farm fresh produce and goods on Saturdays at Farmers' Market. Construction of Market Heights will in no way interrupt the Saturday market days. No construction will take place on Saturdays and all construction equipment will be located away from the market's parking spaces on the weekend.

Come and shop at Farmers' Market this and every Saturday!



This notice was paid for by the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation, a non-profit community based agency working with the community of Bernal Heights to build and rehabilitate affordable housing.

For more information about the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation or the Market Heights project, please call Stephen Dunn at (415) 206-2140.

Around the Neighborhood

With Gloria Allen

The Painter's Studio on Winfield

Richard MacKot is a contractor/carpenter and a painter of both houses and canvas. His current work is a collection of paintings of aerial views of the City's streets, or as he says, "low-level maps of the streets and traffic which I paint from my mind's eye." They are realistic, as if one is looking directly over these objects

painted in primary colors of blue, red and yellow. I was reminded of Mondrian and Wayne Thiebaud.

Richard's family has lived in Bernal Heights since 1988 when his great grandparents Mary and Rudolph Hahn sailed to New York in 1883 from Vienna and then travelled across country by train.

They lived on Bache Street

where their daughter Rose Hahn was born. Like her daughter, Estelle, Richard's mother, she went to the Bernal School on Cortland where the Public Library is now located. A photograph of Estelle in Richard's hallway reveals a very alluring, seductively costumed young lady in an agile dance position. She entertained as a ballet/modern dancer prior to her marriage to Fred MacKot in 1937. They lived at 375 Crescent where Richard and

his brother grew up and went to Junipero Serra School.

In 1950 the family moved to Glen Park. Richard went to City College, San Francisco State and the San Francisco Art Institute. He also painted Victorian houses in the style of the "Painted Ladies." This inspired him to acquire and

renovate his own Victorian. Although he had lived in North Beach, Pacific Heights and Telegraph Hill, he bought his 1903 Victorian flat on Winfield Street in 1973. When I asked him why he returned to Bernal Heights, he said, "I never left. My family has been here over 100 years and I have an aunt who lives on

Andover and another who lives on Gates Street. This is home. Bernal is its own little village in the City. There's a wholeness, warmth and community feeling—neighbors know each other."

Richard says "Keep creativity in your life. Unless we dream and are optimistic, life is boring. Dreams give us something to look forward to. Humor is our greatest gift. If you can laugh, you can survive anything."



Richard MacKot and his canine friend at his residence/artist's studio on Winfield Street.

The Holmans

From page 1...

to be cleaned after I leave! I stash the shoes in front of the unassuming workman's cottage, and knock on the door.

Miley Holman is no stranger to mud. He's an archaeologist. As owner of Holman and Associates, he has excavated sites throughout the city. Presently, he's working on a goldrush era Chinese burial ground on the grounds of the Palace of the Legion of Honor. He even met his wife by throwing mud at her office window when she was worked at San Francisco State's Department of Economics.

"It was in 1972. She was new in the department and I worked in the Anthropology Department. I used to do things to tease the woman who had the office before her. So, I really didn't know that the office had a new occupant. I had to do some quick talking. We became 'the most watched couple' that summer at State. We were married in Sheila's hometown, Washington, D.C."

The daughter of African-American farmers who have owned their own land for several generations, Sheila Holman is now a concert pianist. The couple's two children attend Sarah Hamlin School in Pacific Heights where Abigail, their oldest child, will be graduating this month.

Rachel, her sister, is an accomplished cellist. Abby plays the violin.

The whole family built their summer home together in the Northern California town of Willits on twenty acres of farmland. Many of their Bernal Heights neighbors are also their neighbors in Willits, including Sally Gearhart, Jane Gurko, and other professors from S.F. State.

"We built the Willits house in an old-fashioned barnraising. We invited professional people up from San Francisco; people who really wanted to learn how to swing a hammer. We fed them and they worked all weekend. There really weren't too many blisters, but it wouldn't have mattered because most of the people working on the project were medical professionals."

The family's home in Bernal Heights opens into a large, modern living space which serves as a concert hall, entertainment center and homework area. The gourmet kitchen with its oak floors is both wonderfully functional, and attractive. A woodstove that was originally built into the house sits near its modern day counterpart. Even the man delivering pizza is impressed, "Wow! This is a cool house! It's almost heaven!"

And the pizza man is right. Sheila and Rachel perform a duet for piano and guitar. Abby looks through a photograph album of her parent's wedding pictures. Miley leans back in an easy chair and looks out at the view. I pick up another piece of pizza and think about how safe and secure the world seems from this Bernal Heights vantage point.

And then it's time to go. An invitation to Abbie's graduation is extended. The door is opened and I'm back on the street to pick up my shoes. As I put them on my feet, it occurs to me: Miley or one of the kids has cleaned them up. Top and bottom. There's not a trace of mud. I smile as I walk back down to Cortland Avenue. "Almost heaven."

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Army



Motorists drive by honking and pedestrians look up with pride as DPW worker John Grey attaches the very first Cesar Chavez Street sign at the corner of Folsom Street. Photo by Vicki Victoria



SLUG youth workers dig plots along Cesar Chavez Street during a tree planting dedication in April.

Tree Planting on Cesar Chavez and throughout Bernal

On April 1, over 200 neighbors and volunteers gathered at to plant 100 trees on the newly re-named Cesar Chavez Street. Enthusiasm ran high among the many diverse groups there, including Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), Depart of Public works, SF League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) Youth, Day Laborers Program, union volunteers, the Neighborhood Center, RAP and St. Anthony's Church. Supervisor Susan Leal also lended an active hand in the planting effort.

You will soon notice many new trees along Mission Street from Chavez south the Randall Streets as well. Thanks to the hard work of Don Huntley of the Northwest Bernal Block Club and Carrie Durkee of the Department of Public Works, there will be more greening of this major commercial street in Bernal.

Odis Dodson, Neighborhood Center and Housing Board Member, is also working hard with the FUF and Cortland Merchants to plant trees on this bourgening business corridor. If you would like a tree planted in front of your business or residence, call Odis at 826-2783.

Text & photo by Helen Helfer

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Honoring Cesar Chavez

Street re-naming celebrations express community's dedication to Chavez's cause

By Vicki Victoria

On March 31, the parking lot of St. Anthony's Church was filled with those who came to witness the dedication of Cesar Chavez Street. The dedication was held on Chavez's birthday to celebrate his life's work of fighting for dignity and value for poor migrant farm workers and inspiring positive and non-violent social change for all



Judge Federico Chavez, Cesar Chavez's nephew and Jesse Arroquin.

people.

Supervisor Susan Leal, who led the fight to see Cesar Chavez Street become a reality, addressed the cheering crowd. "We're running against a great tide—the tide that brought us Proposition 187—a tide of meanness. Today is an important statement against this tide by renaming this street," said Leal. "We're going against this tide, but we're not alone every time we look at that sign that says 'Cesar Chavez.'"

Part of this tide ripples into Noe Valley, where a group of neighbors has launched a petition campaign to stop the re-naming of Army Street by bringing the issue to voters in November.

"I know there are some opposed to [re-naming] this street," Supervisor Tom Ammiano announced to the crowd, "But the people in opposition are missing the big picture of education and balance."

Cesar Chavez's nephew, Federico, also explained why the street was so vital to San Francisco. "My uncle put his life on the line...to give hope to our young. There is a loss of direction for our youth today," said Chavez. "We



S.F. Supervisor Susan Leal led the fight to change Army into Cesar Chavez Street.

need real heros to give us direction and to better ourselves, our nation and our world."

"Brown kids like me need a hero," said ten year old Jessie Arrequin, who helped Supervisor Leal unveil the first Cesar Chavez Street sign. "A hero that looks like us: it's as important as breathing. This street sign is a small tribute to his honor."



Photo by Ricky Bruno

On April 23, the 2nd anniversary of Cesar Chavez's death, hundreds marched in a procession of neighbors, laborers, Aztec dancers, politicians and union leaders down the former Army Street and newly re-named Cesar Chavez Street.

Hero - from page 1...

ing to lure her into his pickup truck. She ran. The man got into his truck and followed her down the street. That was when Michael noticed the situation.

"I could see that the girl didn't want to get in", Michael wrote in a story-book style account of the event which he spontaneously penned for the *New Bernal Journal*. "I came to [Precita] Center and they called the police, and they came and they found him!"

If the version Michael wrote differs from the truth at all, it is only due to his bashful modesty. The man offered him ten dollars to help him get the girl into the truck. Michael flatly declined, and actually ran to a pay phone first. He quickly dialed 911, but as he explained, "They wouldn't connect me." It was only after giving up on being taken seriously by the police that he ran to the Precita Center where staff members had better luck.

Michael was able to determine the make of the truck, an older Toyota model, even though the word "Toyota" was nowhere on it. He also got three numbers from the license plate, making it easy for the police to find the suspect. Michael positively iden-

Zwiggoff

From page 1...

to see it are fans of R. Crumb, and there aren't that many of them. There are maybe ten thousand people in the country that are his fans, and maybe ten thousand of his new comics sell, and so the film wasn't economically feasible. I always contended that this film was not about him—it was about art. It was about the story of three brothers and this family, and as it turns out, the people who seem to like it the least are his fans. The people

tified Rigoberto Zaldana, 27. "We had to look at him, and he was the man", wrote Michael.

Despite his sudden celebrity, young Mr. Sparks is keeping things in perspective: "If I had saved the President, now that would be something." Friends Shawn Corke, Richard and Mike Peña all seemed to agree. Playing freely in the park, just yards away from the scene of the crime, the children teased Michael about his overnight notoriety. Eager to change the subject, Michael grabbed a plastic baseball bat, and struck them all soundly. "They woulda taken the ten bucks", he joked.

who like it the most are the people who never heard of him.

• **What do you think it is that's universal about this family that appeals to people?**

What people respond to is that they've all come from a very strange...you know...everybody's family was pretty weird. I was born in 1948. The fifties...God, just a weird time. Everybody's family was so repressed and so twisted. I spent most of my youth watching my father come home from work and put on the TV and watch the Andy Williams show, the Perry Como show, and I would just feel totally suffocated; it was so dull and so tight and so uninteresting. They would listen to The Sound of Music if they wanted music, or Oklahoma.

• **Do you think your family was anything like the Crumb family?**

I think almost everybody's family was just as twisted as the Crumb family, and I'm sorta shocked at the press, at the big critical take when they write a story about the film in magazines or newspapers is "The most dysfunctional family in America", "The craziest family in America." I think if people are honest with themselves, and think about their own family, they're

Cont'd. on page 9...

Zwiggoff

From page 8...

going to realize that this family is much more the norm than the exception. It was much more interesting than most families, but I don't think it was that much stranger.

• **Well they wouldn't appreciate it as much as they have if they couldn't identify with it.**

That's exactly right, that's what they respond to in this film. To me it was more a film about art; an investigation into the mystery of this creative process. The family thing was more of a sideline to the story. I thought his family was extremely

witty, and brilliant and talented, and weird—you know they're eccentric. I've seen my film compared to Gray Gardens, and My Brother's Keeper repeatedly. Gray Gardens is this film that I found rather exploitative. It's about this very strange couple of old ladies who live together. There didn't seem to be any reason to make the film other than to exploit their weirdness—they didn't have anything going on, they weren't interesting—they weren't artists, they didn't have a life. I never saw why that film was so popular.

• **You don't think you had the same angle in your film.**

I never felt that I was exploiting these people, or I certainly hope I didn't. I walk a rather fine line, but so far I don't think anyone has accused me of that particular offense. People seem to think that one of the reasons I spent so much time with this family is that they're so weird. I liked his family, very much, and I found them very funny and smart, and I liked hanging out with them and talking to them.

• **I opened the New Yorker a couple weeks ago and found a two page cartoon by R. Crumb and his wife. Have you seen that?**

Yeah, I saw that. I was a little pissed off at it, 'cause I thought it was largely a bunch of bullshit on his part. [Laughs]

• **He accuses you of pushing your own ideas through him.**

That part is probably true, actually. Every filmmaker does that. Part of what he does for a living is that he's a professional satirist who goes around criticizing everything. The stuff that I found more interesting, his complaints more interesting was the stuff that I left in the film. The stuff that he complained about, criticized, that I didn't quite agree with, probably more of that stuff is on the cutting room floor.

• **Is there anything that you left out of the film because they requested you to, or because you thought it would be too disturbing?**

That the Crumb family requested? I never let them see the film. I just knew that would happen, and it's a bad position to be put in. To choose between friendship, and making a piece of art—I didn't want to be in that position.

• **Do you think this film has adversely affected your relationship with Robert, or any members of his family?**

I think it's fine with him. Both of his sisters refused to be in the film, and I couldn't really get a good answer out of either one of them as to why not. Sandra, [Robert's]

younger sister got really angry about it, she kept hanging up on me and wouldn't give me a reason—said if I so much as mention her name in the film, she'd sue me.

• **This happened even before the film was made.**

I was trying to get her in the film to tell her side of the story. I did take out a lot of Robert talking about his sisters—Sandra in particular—'cause I didn't really want to have this film...

• **Do you think they would have complained just at being talked about?**

I think more so than they're complaining now. Neither one is happy now because it's getting so much press. You can't

open a magazine in America without seeing an article on this thing.

• **I've found it stunning. It's even in Sassy, — it's not only in Time, Newsweek, Rolling Stone.. What is it like to have this kind of national attention?**

It's strange. My phone rings constantly. People are offering me jobs. 'You wanna direct this film, you wanna direct that film', and I say, 'Send me the screenplay—if it's any good I'd love to direct it.'

• **So you're getting into non-documentary stuff.**

This may be my one chance to make a fiction film. I think I'd be better at it than making documentary films, it seems easier to me in many respects. I'm sure it's no joy to deal with the movie star's ego, but... I find myself trying to work with the people involved [in my documentary films] almost like hoping they were actors. I try to get them to recreate things they've said, or situations I've seen them in, and it never works. You can't make a documentary that way.

• **Maybe that's what Robert Crumb was talking about. Would you try to push him at all?**

I tried to push him into doing things, and some of what he said is very valid, in that *New Yorker* thing. It's just it was very hypocritical. The thing that really irked me is that he and especially Aline, very much made a career of touting their style of art, which is to draw this very personal, revealing stuff. In their latest comic, which is called *Self Loathing Comics*, they go on and on about what makes great art is actually trying to put the viewer in a position of peeping through the keyhole. They were describing this film to me!

• **But they didn't like it the way it was in the film.**

They didn't like the film precisely because they didn't have control over how they were presented.

Right, I believe he says that in one panel [of the *New Yorker* cartoon]. But at the same time, it's very hypocritical of them, and you know Robert admitted that to me. I asked him, "How can you be such a hypocrite? You're saying what's important in art is truth, and frankness, and to be as revealing as possible, and that's what I did here. How can you be bitching about it?" He said, (In Crumb Voice) "Well, you know, I like to be honest... up to a point, and I like to control, and it's very uncomfortable to have somebody else control." I said, "Well, then you're a hypocrite."

• **He's probably never been in this situation before.**

He's never been in this situation before, and admitted he was crazy to have been put in this situation to begin with.

• **So now he regrets it?**

He's got a whole disguise he's gotta wear now so he's not recognized on the street. He spent a week in New York, and he dressed like a derelict so nobody would look at him too close. He had his hat down over his face, and grew a beard and people still recognized him.

• **That's surprising. Have any of your earlier films generated media response like this one?**

Well *Louie Blewie* had these rave reviews... but it's not anywhere near as good as this Crumb film. I think that a lot of reviews follow the same prejudices that the Academy Awards documentary committee has toward documentaries. I think they judge the film on the subject matter rather than on the



film itself. So if it's a film about a noble subject like a great injustice in history, or exposing a racist attitude about America like *Hoop Dreams* did, then it's considered a great film. And my film *Louie Blewie* was just raved about because it's a portrait of this old black

guy, and who's going to knock this old black guy, you know? He was a great guy, I'm not putting him down, but at the same time it seems there's this warped idea that when you're reviewing a documentary you're really not reviewing the film, you're sort of saying 'Well this is a good guy, this old black guy, I'm not going to knock him.'

• **Do you get a real sense of validation from having this kind of acceptance from the popular media?**

Oh yes. As much as you try not to believe your own press, it's sorta hard not to re-read where some critic calls it the best film of the year—I sat there and read that three times, not believing my eyes. It's very satisfying, especially after all the people I showed the film to who hated it. Certainly the first half is very light and funny, but the second half starts to delve into the darker side of things, sort of like *Blue Velvet*. I always thought of *Blue Velvet*, and that's why I showed it to David Lynch. He put his name on it—it says 'David Lynch Presents'. When I went to him with this film, he said, 'I'm not interested in this, I know who R. Crumb is—I'm not a big fan of his. I don't like documentary films.' It took me a month and a half to get him to watch the damn thing, and then he was completely blown away by it.

• **Are you completely satisfied with the final cut of the film?**

There are a few things that I ended up leaving out, but it's 119 minutes,

and there were people in the editing room trying to get me to cut it down to 90. But I refused to do that, and I'm glad I didn't. They're going to let me do a director's cut

for this laser disc version Columbia Tri-Star's putting out for Christmas. We'll put in all these outtakes, and that should be satisfying.

• **Do you know what your next project will be?**

I've got about ten possibilities. Diane Hanson's a woman who's in the film who is a six-foot tall female pornographer. And quite a looker as well and has led this unbelievably interesting life. She was approached last week by some sleazy sort of 'movie of the week' company in New York. They wanted to do a movie of the week based on her life, after seeing *Crumb*. She called me up for advice and I called my agent to tell her about it. [My agent says] 'Why don't you do it, with her? Don't do it as a TV movie, do it as a good film. Sit down and get her involved in writing, the screenplay and get all of these great stories and anecdotes, and do it right.' I said, God, that's a great idea.

• **It sounds very similar to the Crumb film.**
Yeah, it's funny and very creepy at the same time.

• **It sounds very similar to the Crumb film.**
Yeah, it's funny and very creepy at the same time.

"Crumb" directed by Terry Zwiggoff is currently playing at the Castro Theatre for an exclusive engagement. Call 621-6120.



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Youth!

New club for kids with gay parents

By Stefan Lynch

The Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) Kids Club is the first and only organization for young kids with lesbian and gay parents, created by daughters and sons of the same.

"The most pressing problem facing kids with lesbian and gay parents is our isolation," says Suzanne Pullen, COLAGE's Administrative Assistant and daughter of a lesbian mother. "It isn't about an adult world of politics, it's about a kid's world of connecting and making friends who understand. It exposes kids all over the world to a community they are a product and a part of, in a way that they can relate to."

There are upwards of 8 million daughters and sons of lesbians and gay parents in the U.S., hundreds of thousands whom are under 10. But despite these enormous numbers, books for kids with lesbian

and gay parents, like *Daddy's Roommate* are one of the most censored genres, being pulled from the shelves of libraries all over the country by members of the religious right who don't understand that lesbian and gay people can make valid and loving families.

Instead of dwelling on other people's ignorance, the Club emphasizes the diversity of our family structures, racial backgrounds, economic levels and how kids came into the world in fun and engaging ways. This includes membership cards, t-shirts, birthday cards and the FunPages, a quarterly publication similar to the kids pages in the Sunday paper. The FunPages have lesbian and gay positive cartoons, games and member submissions.

To join COLAGE's Kids Club, call (415) 861-5437 or write: 2300 Market St., #165, SF, 94114.



Soapbox Derby

A Celebration of Art on Wheels

By Nina Sazevich

Ready, set, go!!! The flags will be waving and the crowd will be cheering when the wackiest cars on wheels come down the East Fort Baker Hill! For months kids from all over the Bay Area, including a large group of Bernal Heights kids, have been creating their masterpieces on wheels in preparation for this day.

The Derby will kick off at 12:30 pm with a hilarious parade of the Shriners' miniature cars! Then the cars begin to roll at 1:00 pm. All day long on the Museum grounds you'll be able to see our one-day-only outdoor exhibition of some of the most unusual things on wheels you've ever seen: art cars created by artists from the Bay Area, electric cars, and more.

So don't miss the craziest event of the summer. Come and cheer on the gang from the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center!

The Soapbox Derby will take place on Sunday, July 23 at The Bay Area Discovery Museum is located at East Fort Baker, Sausalito, CA. The Derby is free with admission to the museum. For information call 487 - 4398.



Just as much fun to watch as it is to race. Kids will zoom down the hill at the Bay Area Discovery Museum's Madcap Soapbox Derby Event July 23.

BERNAL PLAYGROUND/GYM SUMMER SCHEDULE (EFFECTIVE 7/1/95 - 8/25/95)

TIME	ACTIVITY	AGE
MONDAY		
10:00-11:00	T Ball Practice	6-8
11:10-11:50	Runners Club	8-13
11:15-11:45	Kickball	8 up
12:00-1:00	Lunch Program	1 up
1:30-2:30	Co-Ed Volleyball	8 up
2:00-3:00	Board Games	8 up
3:00-4:00	Snack Program	1 up
3:30-4:30	Touch Football	8-13
4:45-6:30	Drop-In Basketball/Ping Pong	8-13
TUESDAY		
9:30-10:30	Kickball/Softball	8-13
10:45-11:30	Volleyball Mechanics	8-13
11:15-11:45	Ping Pong Tournament	8-13
12:00-1:00	Lunch Program	1 up
1:30-3:00	Cooking Class	7-14
2:30-4:00	Youth Baseball	9-13
3:00-4:00	Snack Program	1-18
4:15-5:30	Intramural Basketball	8-13
WEDNESDAY		
9:30-10:30	T Ball	6-8
10:45-11:45	Board Games	6-13
11:10-11:50	Outdoor Games	6-13
12:00-1:00	Lunch Program	1-18
1:30-2:45	Arts & Crafts	6-13
2:45-4:00	Movie Day	
3:00-4:00	Snack Program	1-18
4:30-5:30	Touch Football	8-13
	Girl's Basketball	8-13
THURSDAY		
10:00-11:30	Volleyball Fundamentals	8-13
11:15-11:45	Ping Pong Tournament	8-13
12:00-1:00	Summer Lunch	8-13
1:30-2:30	Badminton	8-13
2:30-3:30	Youth Fitness/Dance	8-13
3:00-4:00	Snack Program	1-18
1:30-5:30	Coed Intramural Basketball	8-13
FRIDAY		
9:00-5:00	Outing Day	8-15
11:00-11:45	Arts & Crafts	6-13
12:00-1:00	Lunch Program	1-18
2:00-3:00	Kickball	6-13
3:00-4:00	Snack Program	1-13
SATURDAY		
1:00-4:30	Drop-In Basketball	All
	Pick-Up Kickball Games	All

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

SUN	MON	TUES	WED
	9:30-5:45	9:15-5:45	9:15-5:45
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A vision of a coalition of congregations in Bernal Heights

A call to build stronger community support for Bernal's homebound is hoped through Faith in Action

By Carmen Mendieta

Over the past months, this section has featured brief articles about Bernal's community response to meeting the long term care needs of elders. In this issue we will describe efforts to expand on the services currently offered in Bernal Heights.

Innovations in community-based long term care are being looked at by policy analysts and grant makers alike as a humane, cost effective solution to the burgeoning costs of caring for elders and persons with disabilities. For example, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has a grants program called Faith in Action which encourages communities to create interfaith volunteer caregiver ministries to provide coordinated outreach and supportive services to vulnerable neighbors. There are currently over 300 successful Faith in Action projects in 45 states and are made up of faith congregations, service providers and volunteers who serve as informal caregivers to those coping with severe disability such as frail and homebound elders. This innovative program emphasizes that "volunteers will help persons without reference to religious or denominational affiliation and without subjecting persons served to proselytizing efforts".

Here in Bernal Heights as mentioned in previous articles, elders can access an array of services through Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's Senior Services which support independent living. Neighbor volunteers provide a number of these services such as: rides to doctor appointments; errands; grocery shopping; minor home repair; respite for caregivers; and installation of grab bars, hand rails and smoke detectors for im-

proved in - home safety. Local churches also have effective outreach programs to assist, support



We, the community of Bernal Heights Senior Services strive to serve and involve seniors as valued neighbors with understanding, respect and care. To ensure that seniors are an active part of the community: we promote wellness; encourage mutual help; and support emotional, social, physical and spiritual well-being. Our commitment is that elders shall live and thrive in the community with independence and dignity.

- The Vision of Bernal Heights Senior Services

and minister to those in need. Yet, additional services and ongoing coordination of neighborhood resources would significantly enrich our community's capacity to respond to the physical, social and spiritual needs of elders and their caregivers.

The Faith in Action program seems like a natural next step to

strengthen and enhance these existing support systems and would facilitate a coordinated, interdenominational effort to offer a volunteer-based caregiving ministry. Such a formal linkage with local churches would allow expanded outreach to isolated elders who may not be aware of the various services available here in the community, improve collaboration and the sharing of resources among service providers and broaden the range of services provided by volunteers.

The call to build stronger community support networks has been heard and seen in our neighborhood.

The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's Senior Committee, a group of committed volunteers recently articulated their vision for elder care as follows: We, the community of Bernal Heights Senior Services strive to serve and involve seniors as valued neighbors with understanding, respect and care. To ensure that seniors are an active part of the community: we promote wellness; encourage mutual help; and support emotional, social, physical and spiritual well-being. Our commitment is that elders shall live and thrive in the community with independence and dignity.

Bernal Heights neighbors of all ages have demonstrated care and respect for elders through their participation in community events and services. We are encouraged that our vision is consistent with Faith in Action and other community building models which are considered the wave of the future for elder care.

For more information on the development of a Faith in Action program in Bernal Heights please call Bernal Heights Senior Services at 206-2145 or 206-9177.

Seniors!

Awards given to Bernal volunteers' outstanding work with elders

Three volunteers from Bernal Heights were honored as award recipients at the Bay Area Independent Elders Program's Celebration Luncheon on May 30 in the beautiful Colonial Room of the Westin St. Francis Hotel.

Ruth Brousseau of the San Francisco Foundation presented awards for volunteer service and commitment to Nanette Gilbert, Home Federal Savings & Loan, Branch Manager, Fay Farrar and William Villeda. All three were honored as outstanding volunteers of the Bernal Elders Support Team, one of the thirteen programs funded by the Bay Area Independent Elders Program.

"From the start, Nanette and her staff at Home Federal have always been there for us," said Carmen Mendieta, Bernal Elders Support Team's Coordinator, "She helped us with program development, provided fiscal advice and helped us in many fundraising events." Gilbert's professional skills as a volunteer provided important assistance to the development of the program, but Mendieta said that her personal caring and giving also helped many elders. "Nanette did a lot of hands-on volunteering with our clients as well that went well beyond her administrative role."

Fay Farrar also received an award for her very dedicated involvement since the Bernal Elders Support Team came to Bernal Heights in 1990. As a senior and a former senior program director, Farrar brought a wealth of experi-

ence and vision to the development of program as a peer and a service provider. "Fay has been a wonderful mentor," said Mendieta, "She has a deep, personal interest in the elders." In addition to having been one of the coalition's most active member, Farrar is also a practical and emotional support volunteer who helps elders by giving rides to doctor's appointments or dropping by just for a friendly visit.

The long list of William Villeda's contributions as a volunteer included being a handyman, gardener, plumber, escort, events helper, and traffic coordinator for the program's annual Cable Car Caroling. Mendieta said that he was the type of volunteer who would come in early in the morning to help out at an event and work late into the evening, often with just a moment's notice or request to help. "And William also made us all laugh," said Mendieta, commenting on how pleasant he was to work with.

All three volunteers were excellent examples of the Bernal Elders Support Team's innovative model for community based service to frail elders. By coordinating professional and retired as well as skilled and unskilled neighbors to provide practical and emotional support, elders at risk of losing their independence were able to remain in their homes and community.

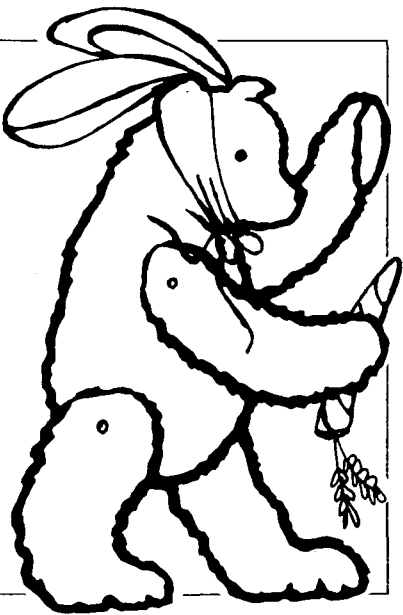
The Bay Area Independent Elders Program was created in 1988 to strengthen the formal and informal support systems available to frail older people with the goal of helping them live independently and with dignity for as long as possible. Through a collaborative grant-making effort by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, The Koret Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, the Marin Community Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, the program supported community coalitions in six Bay Area counties.

Volunteers Needed to Deliver the New Bernal Journal!

Although the *NBJ* is currently delivered to each doorstep in Bernal, some volunteers are doing more than their share.

To save them from burnout, if any neighbors who live on the blocks listed below are interested in volunteering, please contact Alice Lee at the BHNC, 206-2140. *It's only a six times a year commitment and you can be part of a 32 year old Bernal tradition!*

Street Name	Block Number	Street Name	Block Number
Moultrie	500-700	Anderson	300-600
Ellsworth	300-600	Gates	300-600
Folsom	3800-4100	Nevada	200-500
Putnam	000-300	Bronte	000-200
Bradford	200-300	Highland	300-400
Crescent	200-300	Andover	700 block
Bache	1st block	Porter	1st block
Roscoe	1st block	Arnold	1st block
Holly Park Circle	200 block	Appleton	1st block
Mission	3500 block	Cortland	000-200
Winfield	000-400	Prospect	000-400
Coso	000-300	Aztec	000-100
Stoneman	000-100	Shotwell	1400-1500
Precita	000-300	Lundys	1st block



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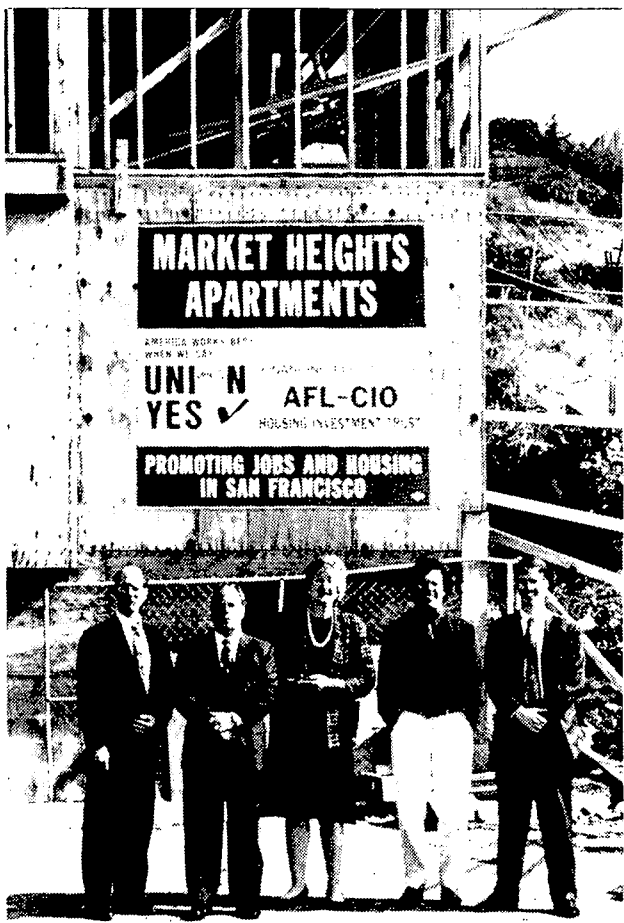
Open Monday thru Friday, 10:00 - 5:00. Weekends by appointment.

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Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

AFL-CIO Comes to Market Heights



Left to right: Jeff Greendorfer, Bill Tutt, Helen Helfer, Steve Dunn, and John Hanley

Bill Tutt and John Hanley from the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust Office in Washington DC, along with Jeff Greendorfer from their San Francisco office, paid a visit to Market Heights this month to see the project--and their new sign! The permanent financing for this 46 unit affordable rental development behind the Farmer's Market is being financed by the AFL-CIO Trust. For updated information, please feel free to call the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation at 206-2140.

Community rallies around Bernal Playground

By Alice Lee

With the support of concerned neighborhood folks, the Bernal Playground Committee has finally won over the attention of the Department of Park & Recreation. Since the Bernal Heights Community Congress in March, the committee has been meeting regularly with playground director Aubrey Tendell as well as Park and Rec. officials Sean Sweeney and James Threat. Discussion has centered around tailoring gym activities to suit the needs of the neighborhood and maintenance problems in the surrounding areas of the play-

ground.

The committee conducted a survey of youth and adults in Bernal to develop a program that would be embraced by the community. One of the top vote-getters for new activities was to play POGs (or milk bottle caps). Through immediate collaboration of local merchants, Bernal Gym, and Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, a tournament was set up and held on May 13, 1995. Special thanks to Patty Fasano of Nicco's Cafe and Bill Nieto of L&N Sports Cards for donating 1,000 POGs for the event. All prizes were provided by

Patty, and everyone who entered the contest received a prize and POGs.

Other activities that received high votes in the survey were Arts & Crafts, Kickball, and Cooking. For other activities, please see the summer schedule on page 12 of this NBJ issue.

With the programming side of the issue in progress, the committee will now turn its attention on the renovation of the playground and gym structure. If you want to get involved, contact BHNC at 206-2140 or come to a meeting on June 6, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue.

Bernal Wish List

Macintosh Computers
Inkjet Printers
Laser Printers
Filing Cabinets
Bookshelves
Answering Machines
Rolling Office Chairs
Call Jess Dugan,
Office Manager, 206-2140

Decorations needed for low income housing:
Silk plants
Hanging Artwork
Welcome mat
Office Needs:
Ergonomic Chair
Call Chloe Fiering, Housing Project Developer, 206-2151

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Board and Committee Meetings for June & July, 1995

BHNC Board of Directors

Mondays, July 17, 7:00 pm.

Fundraising Committee

Wednesdays, June 7 & July 5, 6:00 pm.

Outreach/Community Organizing Committee

Tuesdays, June 6 & July 11, 6:00 pm.

Bernal Heights Youth Coalition

Tuesdays, June 20 & July 18, 7:00 pm.

Senior Committee

Mondays, June 5 & July 10, 3:00 pm.



All meetings take place at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue unless noted otherwise. For more information call the BHNC, 206-2140.

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Come out for an enlivening night of comedy and fun with your friends and neighbors while supporting services for our community! ...and enjoy the whacky humor of Bernal's own Tom Ammiano!

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DESIGN-A-MUG FOR BERNAL CONTEST!

We want your MUG designs!



The Friends of Bernal Heights Campaign is sponsoring a

contest for the best (coffee) mug design with a Bernal theme. The fabulous Bernal mugs - designed with the art work of one of

our own community members - will be available at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center by the end of summer. Proceeds from mug sales will benefit the

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Housing Corporation. All ages and levels of drawing experience welcome to submit. Children, youth and seniors encouraged.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

- You must be a Bernal resident.
- Drawing must fit within a 3 inch high by 8 inch wide frame.
- Drawings must be in black and white only.
- You may add minimal text (1 to 5 words).
- The drawing is for a standard, ceramic, 11 ounce coffee mug - designs with clear edges are encouraged.
- Don't forget that this contest is for fun and an expression of our community spirit.
- Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number.

The winner will receive a FREE 1995 FIESTA T-Shirt & a FREE BERNAL MUG, of course!

So get your creative juices going and send entries by 6/30/95 to:

BERNAL MUG CONTEST,

515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

The drawings will be judged by a panel comprised of BHNC Staff, Board & Committee members. The panel may make minor editorial/artistic changes to accommodate the camera-ready process for the final product.

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

Community♥Giving

The first ever Friends of Bernal Heights Campaign co-sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation is working to secure a decent quality of life for all Bernal residents.

The Friends Campaign supports community advocacy and special programs which serve some of our more vulnerable neighbors.

For instance, when the library is faced with threats of closure, we help organize the community to fight to keep the doors open. When youth are at risk of involvement in gangs, we provide them with alternatives to violence, such as job training, counseling and involvement in positive activities. When our senior citizens need companionship, food, and extra help to live comfortably in their homes, we are there with our Senior Programs. Our Housing Corporation works to make sure that Bernal Heights residents with low and moderate incomes have access to safe and decent affordable housing.

The community programs of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Housing Corporation touch the lives of everyone who

lives in Bernal Heights.

But we need your help to expand our efforts. Our reliance on individual support is increasing as we compete for scarcer government and foundation dollars for children, youth and senior services

The Friends Campaign gives people who care about our neighborhood an opportunity to support programs in a meaningful way.

and affordable housing.

The Friends Campaign gives people who care about our neigh-

borhood an opportunity to support programs in a meaningful way. Funds raised from the Friends campaign will expand our youth gang prevention and job development programs; our special needs housing development where we make homes affordable for persons with disabilities; and our Senior programs to ensure the elderly live in safety and comfort.

We hope you will join your neighbors and invest in your community with a Friend of Bernal contribution of \$100 or more.

Friends of Bernal will receive recognition in the New Bernal Journal, the Neighborhood Center's Memo to Members, the Bernal Fiesta Program, and become automatic members of the Neighborhood Center.

For More Information about the Friends Of Bernal Campaign Call Jess Dugan, Fundraising Coordinator, 206-2140

Make An Important Investment In Your Community!

Many thanks to the following contributors to the Friends of Bernal Heights Campaign:

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1995 Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Members

Many thanks to all of the folks who have become Neighborhood Center Members. The BHNC has been able to provide quality programs and services to Bernal Heights for over sixteen years with the support of Neighborhood Center Members and active neighborhood volunteers. Don't forget to encourage your neighbors and friends to send in their membership form now and help make Bernal the best neighborhood to live in! Join Your Neighbors in Support of Your Community Center!

1995 Supporting Members

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Jeffrey Bachman
Bruce L. Balshone
Fred Blum
Laura Bresler
Nanette Gilbert
JC Super
Bruce Johnson
Alfred Kiewasser
Juliet Martine
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Bill Billotte
Louise Billotte
Robin Blackstone
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For information on membership contact Jess Dugan, Fundraising Coordinator at 206-2140.



Join the BHNC!

As a member who lives in Bernal you are eligible to vote for the BHNC Board of Directors at the Annual Community Congress, receive newsletters and meeting notices, participate in our services and activities, and have a say in shaping the future of Bernal Heights!

My annual membership dues are enclosed. I subscribe to the mission and goals of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

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Please return membership application to :
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515 Cortland Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94110

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Bernal Hilltop Natural History

The Grasses of Bernal: Part 1. Native Grasses

By Barbara Pitschel

Considering the fact that our hilltop is a grassland, relatively few of these articles have been about grasses. Most of the time I write about the showy wildflowers that you can see blooming on the hill throughout the seasons. The next two issues will discuss the many species of grasses, native and exotic, that occur on Bernal. This month I'll cover the spectacular natives that have survived here through the years.

Most of California's native grasses are perennials, which develop strong, deep root systems to sustain them over the dry season. The root systems of perennial grasses are wonderful soil stabilizers, effective in controlling erosion. The aliens, on the other hand, are primarily annuals, which bloom early in the year, produce huge quantities of seed to ensure their continuation, and die at the end of the season.

Bromus carinatus is the only native grass on the hill that is not a perennial. It is a biennial that lives for only a couple of seasons. This has been a spectacular season for the species, whose nodding reddish flowers rise above the other grassland plants.

Melica californica, a short-lived perennial is one of the earliest grasses to bloom. The clumps it forms are quite small. It can best be seen on the hillside above Bocana Street on the south side of the hill during March and April. Its most distinctive trait is its shiny black seeds.

Poa unilateralis is a low-growing grass with flower heads like elongated tufts, which is generally found along the west slope. The type locality for this species (the place where it was originally discovered and described) is San Francisco.

Nassella pulchra (until recently known as *Stipa pulchra*) is California's state grass. Like most of the natives, this is a bunchgrass, which grows in a dense clump. The common name of this species, purple needle grass, describes the long purplish awns that protrude from the ends of the flowers and bend like knees when the seeds are ripe to facilitate dispersal. This species is one of the dominant natives on Bernal. It can be seen in most areas but is most visible growing in clumps on the hillsides during summer and fall.

Danthonia californica (California oat grass) grows close to the ground in low, tufted clumps. Its leaves are somewhat curled, its v-shaped, oatlike flowers usually grow in pairs, and it favors open areas where competition is minimal. Its mat-like habit suits it to survival along paths.

Koeleria macrantha (junegrass) has soft, dense flower heads and is common along the west and south slopes. It blooms in late spring and early summer, and is distinctive in that the flower heads usually have a second small tuft of flowers separated from the main upper inflorescence by a small bare space.

Festuca rubra (red fescue) is the only native grass that is not a bunchgrass but rather spreads by rhizomes forming a mat-like structure. The main population on Bernal is on the upper northwest slope, where there is more moisture retention than on other parts of the hill. Waves of this grass look striking in early morning and evening light.

One of the latest native grasses to flower is *Elymus glaucus* (blue wild rye). It is the easiest to identify because it retains its tall, stiff, pencil-like dried inflorescences through the winter. It grows on many parts of the hill but is most evident toward the eastern half.

Many of these species have been reintroduced into the restoration test plot at the southeastern end of the hill. A good way to learn some of the grasses is to join our restoration work parties at 11:00 am on the third Sunday of each month. Call me at 282-5066.



Danthonia californica

Stalking the Wild Bernal Hill

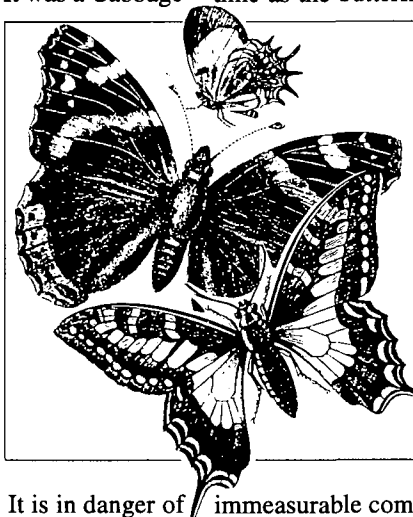
A Loss of Butterflies

By David Graves

With the clearing of wintry skies and the coming of spring on Bernal Hill, I find my attention drawn naturally again to the earth and its colorful display of spring flowers. On a walk a few weeks ago, I also sighted a butterfly dancing amidst the blossoms. It was a Cabbage

Butterfly, one of the more common whites found in California, identifiable by the single dark spot on both wings. On the whole, however, there has been a noticeable decline in butterfly sightings in the state. For example, the now officially declared "endangered" Mission Blue, once very numerous in the San Francisco area, is now very rarely seen, a few specimens remaining on Twin Peaks and the San

Bruno Mountain to the south. It is in danger of suffering the fate of another related species, the Xerces Blue, that became the second known species of butterfly to become extinct in North America, but once indigenous to the San Francisco peninsula. The circumstances of the demise of the Xerces Blue are that a Presidio housing development built in 1943 wiped out its habitat. Its name lives on, however, in the Xerces Society, which is dedicated to preserving butterfly habitats worldwide, including that of the monarch here in California.



A butterfly is a magnificent, yet fragile, creature of nature. An essential part of the web of life, as it spreads pollen from flower to flower, the butterfly also represents in human imagination the metamorphosis of the banal into the beautiful. At the same time as the butterfly uses its host plant (the Bernal

Hill lupine is a butterfly favorite for this purpose) for laying eggs and a food source for its development from caterpillar to chrysalis to adult butterfly, wild, flowering plants vie for space to exist with an ever increasing human presence and the urban sprawl that follows. There are currently 24,000 butterfly species worldwide compared to one species of humankind. Yet the impact our one species makes on the world's natural resources is

immeasurable compared to that of the butterfly.

A recent theory of the development of human culture speculates that within our species there exists an innate need for open space, a biological drive which in part accounts genetically for our evolution from arboreal apehood to savannah-dwelling humanity. Unfortunately, our species also has the characteristic of altering tremendously through technology the same environment shared by other species on earth. Consequently, the question arises: against a standard of human progress, how do we measure the loss of butterflies?

Geographical History of the Hill

By Ed Roper

Powers St. was named for Stephen P. (1840-1904). Born in Ohio, he became a reporter after graduation from the University of Michigan. Powers was very much into exercise and health. He hiked from North Carolina to San Francisco in 1868. For six years he traveled California to study Indians and published his findings in "Overland Monthly."

Manchester St. was named after an early settler and like most early settlers he lived north of Cortland. John R. Jarboe is shown in 1894 as the owner of a lot near Seventh and Brannan Streets.

James G. Fair was one of the four Comstock Kings who got control of very productive Nevada silver mines. Fair owned several lots on the slope of Holly Park. He did not build the Fairmont Hotel, but had started work on a foundation for a home, but died soon after work started. Fair's daughter, Tessie, built the hotel.

In 1839, Juan Francisco Bernal's title to a land grant of 4434 was confirmed to his grandson. Jose Cornelio built a home for his family where St. Luke's Hospital is today. Jose sold part of the grant to Bishop Alemany in 1850. St. Mary's College would be established on this site. One of Bernal's street names is the most common street name in America. No, it's not Montezuma or Rosecranz. Stay tuned.

Aside on Junipero Serra School. Junipero Serra was born on the Spanish island of Mallorca. His home in Petra was purchased by the Rotarian Club in Mallorca and donated to the City of San Francisco in 1933 and the deed was kept in a City Hall vault.

A Bay Area native, Dina Moore Bowden, living on Mallorca wrote the Board of Supervisors that the roof on the Serra home was badly in need of repair. The Board replied that three bids for the job should be sent. Ms. Bowden wrote saying that this was not the way things were done in Mallorca. Anyone doing the job would be competent and charge a fair price. Back and forth it went, none of it by e-mail and the roof problem got worse.

Officials in Petra, in the island's capital of Palma, and finally in Madrid got ticked off and requested the return of the home's deed and so there is no longer a bit of San Francisco in Mallorca. (Two days after I myself visited this home on a stay in Mallorca, I met my wife in Palma. So I'll close and take my wife to a Spanish Bodega).

Oh yes...the most common street name in America is Park.

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Volunteers brave rains to fix Bernal homes

By Ruthy Talansky

On April 29th, hundreds of volunteers coordinated by the non-profit group Christmas in April descended upon the city to fix up houses in need of repair. In Bernal

Heights, seven homes had extensive repair and cosmetic work done; two houses are on Ellsworth, two on Moultrie, one on Richland, one on Coleridge and one on Nevada.

Even through the pouring rain, the dedicated volunteers kept up their work and the improvements are spectacular.

At the Richland property, some structural work was done including shoring up the rear garage and repairing the rear steps. The volunteers installed new light fixtures, reglazed the front windows and painted interior walls and ceilings. Bernal Heights Housing Corporation's Housing Director, Stephen Dunn and Project Developer, Chloe Fiering, worked on this house with Stephen taking on the role of the skills captain.

The Mayor's Office of Housing turned out in full force to work on the Moultrie street house. A lot of work was done at this property,



Christmas in April volunteers work together to replace the siding of an Ellsworth Street home.

Photos by Chloe Fiering



Wells Fargo and Nikko Investment Advisers provided volunteers and the materials needed to repair the home of this father and daughter on Moultrie Street.

East & south slopes improvements update

The Bernal Heights East & South Slopes Improvement Committee has been meeting monthly to monitor the planning of extensive infrastructure improvements in three areas of Bernal Heights. The first area: Brewster/Joy was discussed in more detail in the April/May Bernal Journal. The second area: Banks/Chapman is now at the beginning stage of planning.

The first planning and brainstorm meeting will be scheduled for July 27th at 6:00

pm at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Ave. The boundaries of the Banks Chapman sub area are: On the west: Gates and Ellsworth Streets. East: Bradford St. North: Bernal Heights Blvd. South: extending beyond Powhattan Ave. The brainstorm meeting is our opportunity as neighbors, residents and/or homeowners to voice our concerns and needs about proposed improvements. I cannot stress too highly the importance of attending this meeting.

If you are unable to attend, but have some viewpoints and issues you wish included in the planning process, you may submit them in writing to 101 Prentiss St., S.F., 94110, or call me at 648-4907---Nic Griffin.

including clearing the backyard of debris and laying down a new brick path and wood chips. They repaired exterior siding, painted the front trim and the rear exterior and poured concrete to repair the basement slab. In the interior, they installed a new tub surround, reglazed all the windows and painted the living room, kitchen and bedroom. Lisa Feldstein, from the Mayor's Office of Housing and a member of the Neighborhood Center Board said "Everyone had a wonderful time. We're really looking forward to doing it again next year."

I worked on the house on Coleridge Street. For five hours, on scaffolding twenty feet high, we painted the facade of the house. We used three different colors of paint and the house looks fabulous. Sheetrock was put up in the kitchen and a new floor installed in the rear porch. Many of the inte-

rior rooms were painted with a fresh coat of paint and look brighter than ever. Not only did we help the owner on Christmas in April day, but I had a great time and met lots of fun and friendly people. The owners could not stop hugging us. They were so grateful for our time and our work. "I am so happy to see all the work these people did for me. They were very nice and did a wonderful job. I cannot thank them enough," said the 83 year old owner at the Coleridge Street home.

The volunteers were also treated to a party by Christmas in April, after all the work was done. Stephen said, "The party was well deserved, but more than just fun, it also acted as a springboard for looking forward to next year's projects and greater involvement with Christmas in April."

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

MAYOR FRANK JORDAN AND THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INVITE YOU TO A COMMUNITY MEETING TO DISCUSS THE 1996 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAMS

Mayor Jordan and the Citizens Committee on Community Development invite San Franciscans to a community meeting to give testimony and identify local needs in the areas of community development, homeless emergency shelter, and housing needs — as related to the 1996 Consolidated Programs.

This scheduled meeting will be the only public hearing conducted prior to issuance of the request for proposals for the 1996 Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Shelter Grant Program. This is an opportunity for local residents to identify the needs of low and moderate income families for public services, housing, public space improvements, economic development and job training, and other services.

San Francisco's current entitlement for the Community Development Block Grant Program is \$26.9 Million; for Emergency Shelter Grants - it is \$872,000; for HOME Investment Partnerships - it is \$6.2 Million. Congressional budget proposals for 1996 indicate significant reductions in funding for these programs. Those reductions range from a low of 20% - to as high as 50%. Additional amounts of program income which are expected to be generated primarily by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency are

reserved for completion of urban renewal activities.

The public hearing for the 1996 consolidated Programs is scheduled:

**ON: Thursday, June 15, 1995
AT: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
St. Mary's Cathedral
Conference Center
1111 Gough Street (at Geary)
Accessible MUNI lines: #38.
Accessible parking is
available on site.**

If you have questions or need further information, please call 554-8755.

Local needs will also be identified by other groups which will be meeting during the upcoming months. These groups include the Continuum of Care Committee (for homeless services), the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy Advisory Committee (for housing needs); the HIV Health Services Planning council (for needs of persons with AIDS/HIV); and the Enterprise Community Council (for specific needs of Enterprise Community neighborhoods).

For more information, please call 554-8755.

- Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available.
- A sound enhancement system is used at the hearing.
- American Sign Language interpreter available by advance request. Please contact Paul Imperiale at 554-8925 (Voice), 554-8749 (TDD) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.
- Minutes of the meeting will be made in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during the meeting, please contact Paul Imperiale at 554-8925 (Voice), 554-8749 (TDD) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.
- In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate chemically sensitive individuals, we are requesting that individuals refrain from the use of chemically based products.



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It was here I grew,
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And as a child I knew,
My love for this mount,
Would be eternal.

There are hidden sights,
Among these heights.
There is beauty and solace
On this land.
A little slice
Of heaven
You might say.
And as we pass
Another day
The children play
And I say
This is my home.
I've lived, I've loved
I've laughed, I've cried;
On Bernal Heights
I've grown.

By Richard D. Martinez



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Bernal Calendar

Children's Story Hour

Every Thursdays in June & July.
10:30am. Thirty minutes of reading for young children (approx. ages 3-6.)
At the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

Gypsy Music

Sunday June 4, 11, 18 & 25, 6:00pm. Hungarian Gypsy Violinist Tibor Horvath and Pianist Lena accompany your dinner at The Hungarian Sausage Factory, 419 Cortland, 648-2847.

Live Music

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:00pm. The Jug Band plays June 6, 13, 20 & 27. Live Jazz on will be featured on all Thursday evenings in June & July. The Deli Pub, 301 Cortland, 285-1631.

Spanish Conversation

1st & 3rd Wednesdays in June & July, 7:00pm. Spanish Conversation for all levels of Spanish speakers, at the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

Family Night

Wednesdays in June & July, 7:30pm. Bonnie Lockhardt will sing for you on June 14. June 21 will feature films for kids. Family Night at the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland. Children and parents of all ages are warmly welcome, 695-5160.

Art Opening

Saturday June 10, 1:00 - 5:00 pm. Bernal Books at 401 Cortland will be having a catered reception for our gallery's inaugural artist, local photographer Alison Kaiser. Please stop by for the art, the food and the books. Call 550-0293.

Hungarian Dancing

Saturday June 10, 9:00pm. Tanchaz featuring Forgatos Ensemble at The Hungarian Sausage Factory, 419 Cortland. \$5.00, 648-2847.

Gay Pride Celebration

Sunday June 18, 4:00pm - 2:00am. Come to the Wild Side West at 424 Cortland for a special party right after the Gay Pride march. Free food, drink specials and more, 647-3099.

Poetry Readings

Saturday June 17 & Tuesday June 27, 7:00 pm. The 3300 Press poetry series features "Jacobus" (an etude) by Donald P. Hilla, Jr. on June 17. The Monthly reading will feature Geri Digiorno and Nancy Keane. Open mike follows readings. Admission is free and complimentary snacks are served. Keane's 3300 Club, 3300 Mission Street, 333-3494.

Bernal Hilltop

Restoration Project

Sunday, June 18, 11:00 am - 1:00pm.
Spend your Father's Day outside at this monthly work party to eradicate invasive plants, maintain test planting areas and propagate indigenous seeds while enjoying native grasses and wildflowers. 282-5066.

Book Club

Thursdays at 4:00pm
Bernal Adult Reading group meets on June 29 to discuss "Gorilla My Love" by Toni Cade Bambara. On July 27 the group will discuss "Buddenbrooks" by Thomas Mannat. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

July 4th Party

Tuesday July 4, at 4:00pm Party with free hotdogs and other traditional food. At the Wild Side West, 424 Cortland, 647-3099.

July 4th in Precita Park

Tuesday, July 4, 12:00 noon - 4:00pm. Precita Park neighbors are invited to celebrate Independence Day with a barbecue, music, dancing, football, games, and mural activities. Awards given to children, youth and families in honor of their cultural and community accomplishments. Dog show (every dog is a winner!). Sponsored by Precita Center, Leonard R. Flynn School, St. Anthony's, Precita Mural Eyes Art Center, Precita Valley Neighbors and the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. To volunteer, call Demece at 641-0507.

Opera Piccola

Saturday, July 22, 1:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend this free performance at the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

Comedy Cabaret

Saturday, July 29, 7:30 pm. Bernal's own Tom Ammann, SF Supervisor and renown comedian, will deliver his clever and biting humor in a fundraising benefit for the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. Annie Larsen from Over Our Heads Women's Comedy Ensemble will also appear. Tickets: \$10 seniors, \$15 general. Call 206-2140.

Bernal Heights groups, merchants, schools, block clubs and non-profits are invited to submit their special events and meeting announcements in the Bernal Calendar. Submission deadline for the August/September '95 issue: 7/14/95. Send your public service announcements to: New Bernal Journal, 515 Cortland Avenue, SF, 94110.

Caring and giving on the Hill

Project Open Hand Bernal Heights

We are still in need of volunteers who can give one day a month for two hours to help deliver meals to neighbors with AIDS. If you are interested, please call Delia Solis at 648-5751, Barbara Moodie at 648-2008, or Mauricio Vela at 206-2140. We will have another potluck gathering on Saturday, June 24 at the Bernal Playground at 3:00 p.m. Come and celebrate, meet other volunteers, and learn about Project Open Hand.

We would like to extend our thanks to the volunteers who have shown their community spirit by helping out:

Bill, Marsha, Domingo, Mayra, Ann, Alvaro, Cecilia, Susan, Fidela, Rick, Tomas, Bebe, Patty, Linda, Cesar & Angela, Elsie, Odis, Josie, Blanca, Gaudioso, Jim, Bernie, Lucy, Demece & Georgia, Rosa, Ernestina, Nicholas, Becky, Beth, Rachael & John, Martin & Mika, Helen, Mary Ann, Kevin, Mary, Dahlia, S. Anita, Pat, Angela, Marc, Silvia, Miguel & Josefina, Aida, Tom, Cesar, Bill, John, Barbara, Jim, Prishni, Peggy, Judith, Ray, Rebecca, Danny, Bayardo, Dan & Sally, Margarita, Guillermo & Cecilia, Gloria, Maria, S. John Ellen, Mauricio, Jim, Marcie, Yvette, Vilma, Sally, Leslie, and everyone else who has supported this project through the past three months.

Paul Revere Elementary collection drive organizer Starlette Jones, Advisor and Principal Randy Hayes express their thanks to the parents, staff and friends who donated food and clothing to the Salvation Army for the victims of the devastating California floods this past winter.



Together in the Mission of Education (TIME) 1995 awarders Alicia Golembiewski (left) and Elizabeth "Lee" Egger (right). Alicia, who has taught kindergarten at Immaculate Conception Elementary for 11 years, has greatly enhanced the school's program by developing a well-rounded format of reading, writing, cooking, singing and dancing. Lee, a native of Bernal Heights who graduated from St. Anthony School in 1927, continues to be a model alumni by helping to raise funds for those students who are struggling financially with their school education.



UCSF - A Health Sciences Center Nutrition Study Participants Needed

Non-smoking healthy men and women aged 50 - 70 are needed to participate in an outpatient nutrition study investigating the effect of diet on blood cholesterol levels. All meals are provided. Must eat two out of three meals on the UCSF campus 7 days a week for 6 weeks. Payment of \$250.00. Call 476-7931.



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New Merchant Focus

Bernal Books looks to be new intellectual and spiritual hub in the community

By Gareth Barkin

I'll be honest with you, folks. When I heard about Bernal Books, the new book-store on Cortland Avenue, I didn't expect very much. I figured someone had rented out a ratty storefront and would be struggling to purvey dog-eared old paperbacks exhumed from their attic. This prediction could not have been further from the truth.

Walking into the place, I was immediately taken by the open and sunny quality it possessed — remarkable considering its compact size. But most tellingly, looking around at the selection of brilliantly tasteful and eccentric books on display, I found I'd forgotten I wasn't in one of those world famous Berkeley book shops so many of us love. But then why shouldn't we have a top quality book seller in Bernal Heights? As Rachel Pepper, the shops' enthusiastic young owner, patiently informed me, "This neighborhood has a strong artistic and literary community; if I hadn't opened a book shop here, someone else would have." And she's right. "But what," I asked her journalistically, "will your store provide to this vast artistic and literary community?" As it turns out, quite a bit.

"A lot of people ask me what the focus of the store is," Rachel explained, "and really, it's the neighborhood. We feature lots of local authors, both from Bernal Heights, and the rest of the city. And what is more, I'm tailoring the stock toward what people around here are buying. For example I've been selling a lot of dog and cat books, so now I've made a big pet section."

But dog and cat books don't even begin to tell the story, my friends. The little shop is brimming with classic and cutting edge

fiction, spiritual tomes, hot political commentary, diverse magazine racks, and a generous children's section complete with an impressive "child friendly zone". Mom and dad can safely unload the youngsters, and go on their own guilt-free literary journey. "I think a book store should be more than just a retail establishment," ponders Rachel, herself a ten year veteran of the book selling game, "it should be an intellectual and spiritual hub for the community." And to that end, she plans on putting together regular book signings events and readings, with authors from Bernal and beyond. A weekly story night for children is also in the works.

Even if all you're craving is a little mystery, a Grisham thriller, or the latest mutation of Anne Rice, Bernal Books will take care of you with their solid selection of paperback fiction. As Ms. Pepper herself confided in me, "I do carry some trash, but it's the *good* trash."

And if you haven't been in yet, try to stop by on June 10th between 1 and 5pm — Bernal Books will be throwing a 'first month' party and reception for the artist whose work is currently displayed on the walls. And from what I've been able to determine, the event *will* be catered.

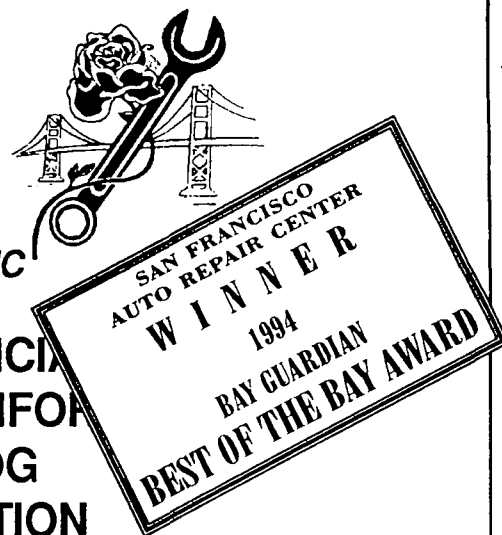
Business:	Bernal Books
Owner:	Rachel Pepper
Where:	401 Cortland Avenue
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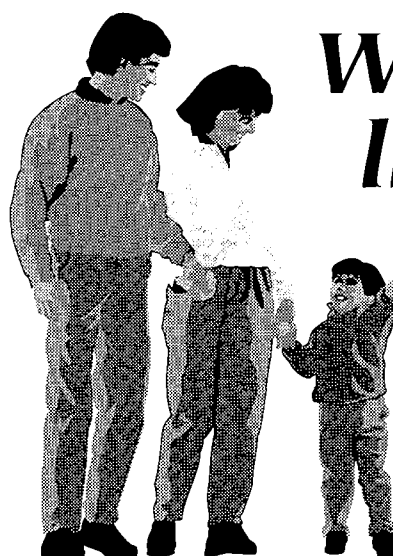
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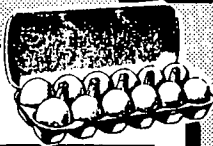
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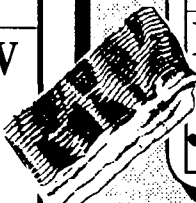
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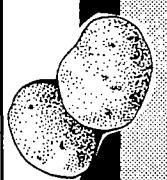
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